

Survey # WA-III-164

Approximate date Ca. 1820,1860s

Street Address E/S Main Street, N/S Rohrsville School Road

Town, State Rohrsville, Maryland 21779

private X, public _____

This L-shaped house on the southwest corner of Main Street and Rohrsville School Road consists of log, stone and brick portions. It stands on high ground and faces north into the village, like its neighbor across the street. These two houses, at the intersection of Main Street and Rohrsville School Road seem, because of their orientation toward the village center, to have been the old end point of the village. Houses behind them to the south are of a later date. The front portion of this house is a two story, three bay log building, cased with brick. A piece of the log construction is exposed at the front wall. An L to the rear is of stone construction with brick facing on its west elevation. The windows are of various sizes with those on the west wall being larger with six over six sash. The front and other windows are small, but also have six over six sash. All are beneath wide wooden lintels which helps to date the renovations to the house to the third quarter of the 19th century. The attic window has a four over four light sash. Added Italianate brackets trim the cornice and barge area of the front section. The roof is of standing seam sheet metal and brick chimneys are located inside the gables. A small frame barn with a forebay is located east of the house and faces east. According to the 1877 Atlas Map, this was the property of Dr. J.E. Holmes who maintained an office in a building behind the house. That building no longer stands. 2 contributing buildings.

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

- I. Geographic Organization: Western Maryland
- II. Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Agricultural-Industrial Transition 1815-1870
- III. Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning
- IV. Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/Single Dwelling, Barn

Photo Reference: Photo # 41

Form Prepared By: Paula S. Reed, PhD, Architectural Historian
Woodward-Clyde
200 Orchard Ridge Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Date: 6/97

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WA-III-164

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Holmes House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 4265 Main Street

☐ not for publication

city, town Rohrersville

☐ vicinity of

congressional district

state Maryland

county Washington

3. Classification

Category

☐ district)
☒ building(s)
☐ structure
☐ site
☐ object

Ownership

☐ public
☒ private
☐ both

Public Acquisition

☐ in process
☐ being considered
☒ not applicable

Status

☒ occupied
☐ unoccupied
☐ work in progress
Accessible
☐ yes: restricted
☐ yes: unrestricted
☐ no

Present Use

☐ agriculture
☐ commercial
☐ educational
☐ entertainment
☐ government
☐ industrial
☐ military

☐ museum
☐ park
☒ private residence
☐ religious
☐ scientific
☐ transportation
☐ other.

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Robert B. Laster

street & number 4265 Main Street

telephone no.: No listing

city, town Rohrersville

state and zip code Maryland 21779

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse

Liber 990

street & number 95 West Washington Street

Folio 390

city, town Hagerstown

state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count = 2

The Holmes House, a two-story, three-bay, symmetrical dwelling is a brick encased log house. Located in the southeast corner of the intersection of Rohrsersville School Road and Main Street, the freestanding dwelling sits on the edge of a rural farm trading center. A small frame barn is also located on the site. Although altered by the enclosure of the second floor of a built-in two-story porch, the Holmes House retains its original ornamental massing and scale.

The Holmes House is located at the southeast corner of Main Street and Rohrsersville School Road in the Village of Rohrsersville. A small frame barn with a forebay is located east of the house and faces east. The dwelling sits on high ground a few feet from the intersection on an open lot with one tree on the lot's southwest corner. The house stands in contrast to other houses in the village in regard to its setting and its orientation. While the majority of the houses in Rohrsersville are lined up along Main Street. The Holmes House is oriented to Rohrsersville School Road with rolling land located to its east. Remaining buildings in the intersection include a church and two other dwellings, one of which also faces Rohrsersville School Road. These two dwellings, because of their orientation toward the village center, seem to have been the old end point of the village. Houses behind them, to the south are of a later date.

The Holmes House is a two-story L-shaped brick-encased log house. The front portion of this house is a three-bay log building, cased with brick. Log is exposed between the stone foundation and the brick on the front facade facing the Rohrsersville School Road. Brick is laid in all stretchers. The roof is standing seam metal with two chimneys near each gable end of the main block and two in the ell. Added Italianate brackets trim the cornice and barge area of the front portion of the building.

The facade has a recessed front door with lintel, and a storm door. Windows are six/six with wood lintels, which helps to date the renovations to the house to the third quarter of the 19th century. The west elevation (facing Main Street) of the front portion of the house has one window each on the first floor and second floors, a 4/4 window in the gable, and a recessed door with lintel. The east elevation has a louvered wooden window in the foundation, one 2/2 window in the second floor, and a 4/4 window in the gable.

The ell to the rear is of stone construction with brick facing on its west elevation. The west side of the ell has three equally-spaced windows each on the first and second floors. The east side has been altered with the second story enclosure of a built-in, two-story porch. This type of porch is found regularly in south-central Pennsylvania and adjacent Maryland¹. The first floor of the porch is made of stone and has two alternating sets of doors and aluminum windows. The second story is covered with vinyl siding and has four aluminum windows.

The rear (south) side of the ell is mainly composed of stone on two floors and brick on the west side. A 2/2 wood window is in the gable. A hand pump is located next to this wall.

The late 19th century frame barn features a forebay, a metal roof, a stone foundation, and strap hinges on its doors. According to the 1877 Atlas Map, an office was located behind the house. The office no longer stands.

The interior was not accessible.

¹ Glassie, Henry. Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States. Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968, p. 59.

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DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

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Overall, despite the 2nd-story addition on the ell of the house that may be covering an original stone wall, the property retains its mid- to late-19th century historic character.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion	
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science	
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	education	military	social/	
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	commerce	exploration/settlement	philosophy	theater	
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	industry	politics/government	transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other(specify)	

Specific dates Ca. 1820, 1860s

Builder/Architect Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: and/or	A	B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C	D				
Applicable Exceptions:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national	<input type="checkbox"/> state	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local					

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The L-shaped Holmes House is significant as an example of a brick-encased log house built in a prosperous rural farm trading center in southern Washington County, Maryland. Predominant characteristics of the house include the 3-bay facade, side gable, and double-hung windows, as well as the two-story built-in porch located in the ell. The home of a physician in the 1870s, the building is a type of dwelling owned by a professional member of the community in the mid- to late 19th century.

History

The earliest land records that can accurately be associated with this property date to 1885, when Dr. Holmes sold the property to Henry G. Holmes. Dr. Holmes at that time was listed as living in Chesterfield, Virginia. The 1877 Washington County Atlas shows the house and an adjacent office as belonging to a physician, Dr. J. (Jeremiah) E. Holmes. The deed notes that J. E. Holmes was executor of the estate of an Archibald Holmes. The 1860 census lists an Archibald Holmes as a farmer in the Rohrsersville District who may have been associated with this site and a farmer in the area. Farmland surrounds the Village of Rohrsersville which was founded in the early 19th century, largely as a result of the location of a grist mill in Rohrsersville that serviced the area's farms.

Tracing the deeds further back provided no further assistance in determining who owned the property prior to the Holmes. Two deeds dating from 1836 and 1840 recorded transactions between Archibald Holmes and the heirs of Joseph Gardner involving at least 50 acres of a 60-65 acre parcel of a tract of land called Park Hall. Much of Rohrsersville was formed from a land grant for property known as Park Hall. The Gardner name is not one that appears on historic maps in the Rohrsersville area. Given the land description of these early deeds and the unfamiliarity of the Gardner name, it is not possible to determine whether this dwelling was located on this same tract. It is unknown when Jeremiah Holmes came into possession of this dwelling or its date of construction.

At the time Jeremiah Holmes resided in this house, Rohrsersville was well established as a village with businesses, a school, and churches. It appears that as a result of the construction of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad in 1867 that traveled through Pleasant Valley, Rohrsersville and the valley prospered. The 1877 Atlas indicates that Rohrsersville was the major village in the Rohrsersville District and consisted of a grist mill, marbleworks, cemetery, school, store, and approximately twenty residences. Turn-of-the century homes were added along Main Street and its south end near the Holmes House. The Rohrsersville School Road, a cross road the Holmes House is located at, was built sometime between 1859 and 1877.

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When Jeremiah E. Holmes sold the property in 1885 to Henry G. Holmes, Ann C. Gillian was to receive an income from the rents and profits that Henry Holmes collected. Apparently the income was not forthcoming because in 1889, John Gilliam, Jr. brought an equity case against Jeremiah Holmes. The next transaction was recorded in 1891, when Daniel A. Rohrer acquired the property from the trustees. Daniel was a grandson of David Rohrer, founder of Rohrerstown. He lived near Trego Station just west of Rohrerstown on the Washington County branch of the B&O Railroad where he was appointed agent for the railroad company and established a store which he ran until 1902 and therefore did not reside at this house².

Daniel sold the property three years later to Jacob H. Mullendore. Daniel was married to Fannie Mullendore, Jacob's daughter³. Once again, the property came into dispute and was put up for sale due to forfeit of unpaid mortgage by Mullendore and the property was transferred back to Daniel Rohrer. In 1900, Daniel sold the property to Jacob U. Mullendore. In 1906, Jacob sold it to Frank and Nettie Mullendore and the property stayed in the Mullendore family for ten years. Frank Mullendore was brought up at farm labor and when he married he first lived on Daniel Mullendore's 115-acre farm near Rohrerstown where he "put up" all the buildings except the house and barn and in 1906 he retired to Rohrerstown⁴. In 1910, the Mullendores sold the property to Adah Rohrer who later sold it in 1927 to Albert and Bertha Rohrer. The property remained in the ownership of the Rohrer family for 78 years and was sold in 1988, by a personal representative of the estate of Albert Rohrer to Robert B. and Victoria Laster with a final transaction in 1991 to the current owner.

Theme:

Early to mid-19th century architecture in Rohrerstown: The Holmes House is significant as a brick-encased log house occupied by a successful professional within the village of Rohrerstown, a thriving rural farm trading center in the Pleasant Valley region of southern Washington County. At least eleven buildings in Rohrerstown are constructed of log which was popular in the county in the 18th and 19th centuries. Examples of log construction include dwellings from small cabins to large houses that were almost always covered with clapboards, stucco, or, in the 19th century with brick casing. An examination of other log structures in the county indicates that covering the logs, in most instances, seems to have been the intent upon construction, as the log walls underneath the siding show little or no weathering⁵.

As a result of this growth, Rohrerstown experienced a second phase of building in the late 19th century representing styles popular in the Victorian period of 1860-1900, as well as continuing a traditional, or vernacular, style of building of the early- to mid-19th century of Washington County. The majority of the houses from this time period in Rohrerstown, as well as Washington County, feature side-gables, three- or four-bays, and two stories as seen in this dwelling. The Italianate trim is reflective of the Victorian period of 1860-1900. The built-in two-story porch is a feature seen on four other houses in the village and only one other building in the village contains a mixture of stone and frame construction (WA-III-143). The barn is typical of a frame barn in the Mid-Atlantic with its stone foundation and forebay.

² Williams, Thomas, J. C. A History of Washington County, Maryland. John M. Runk & L. R. Titsworth, 1906, p.964.

³ Williams, p. 964.

⁴ Ibid, p. 856.

⁵ Reed, Paula. "Keedysville Survey Report." Preservation Associates, Inc., Hagerstown, MD, December 1993, p. 9.

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Chain of Title

01/23/1885	Jeremiah E. & Rose Holmes to Henry G. Holmes Liber 86 Folio 611
10/12/1889	John Gilliam, Jr., vs. Jeremiah E. Holmes, et al Equity case #3797
07/01/1891	Edward Stake & Alexander Armstrong, Trustees to Daniel A. Rohrer Liber 97 Folio 415
02/23/1894	Daniel A. & Fannie Rohrer to Jacob H. Mullendore Liber 101 Folio 503
03/13/1899	Jessie O. Snyder to Daniel A. Rohrer Liber 110 Folio 82 Snyder was directed to hold a sale 02/11/1899 of this property due to forfeit of unpaid mortgage by Jacob H. & Elizabeth A. Mullendore 03/26/1894 (101/540) Equity case #5479 03/17/1899
07/31/1900	Daniel A. & Fannie T. Rohrer to Jacob U. Mullendore Liber 113 Folio 306
02/23/1906	Jacob U. & Bessie Mullendore to Frank B. & Nettie Mullendore Liber GBO 123 Folio 613
03/31/1910	Frank B. & Mary Nettie Mullendore and Charles E. & Lilly S. Gross to Adah A. Rohrer Liber 133 Folio 682
02/26/1927	Adah A. Rohrer to Albert C. & Bertha E. Rohrer Liber 1801 Folio 154
07/12/1988	Omer T. Kayler, Jr., personal representative of estate of Albert C. Rohrer to Robert B. & Victoria M. Laster Liber 884 Folio 819
03/22/1991	Robert B. & Victoria M. Laster to Robert B. Laster Liber 990 Folio 390

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DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

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HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Maryland

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community
Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/Single Dwelling
Agriculture/Barn

Known Design Source: Unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WA-III-164

See continuation sheet


10. Geographical Data


Acreage of nominated property . 5

Quadrangle name Keedysville

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000


UTM References DO NOT COMPLETE UTM REFERENCES

A  Zone Easting Northing


B  Zone Easting Northing

[illegible]

D. 

E 

F

G 

H 

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary is parcel 163 containing the Holmes House and to which the owner currently holds title.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Susan Cianci Salvatore
------------	------------------------

organization Woodward-Clyde

date June 1997

street & number	200 Orchard Ridge Drive
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telephone 301-670-3361

city or town Gaithersburg

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

**return to: Maryland Historical Trust
People's Resource Center
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7000**

WA-III-164

Holmes House

Washington County

Continuation Sheet 9.1: Major Bibliographical References

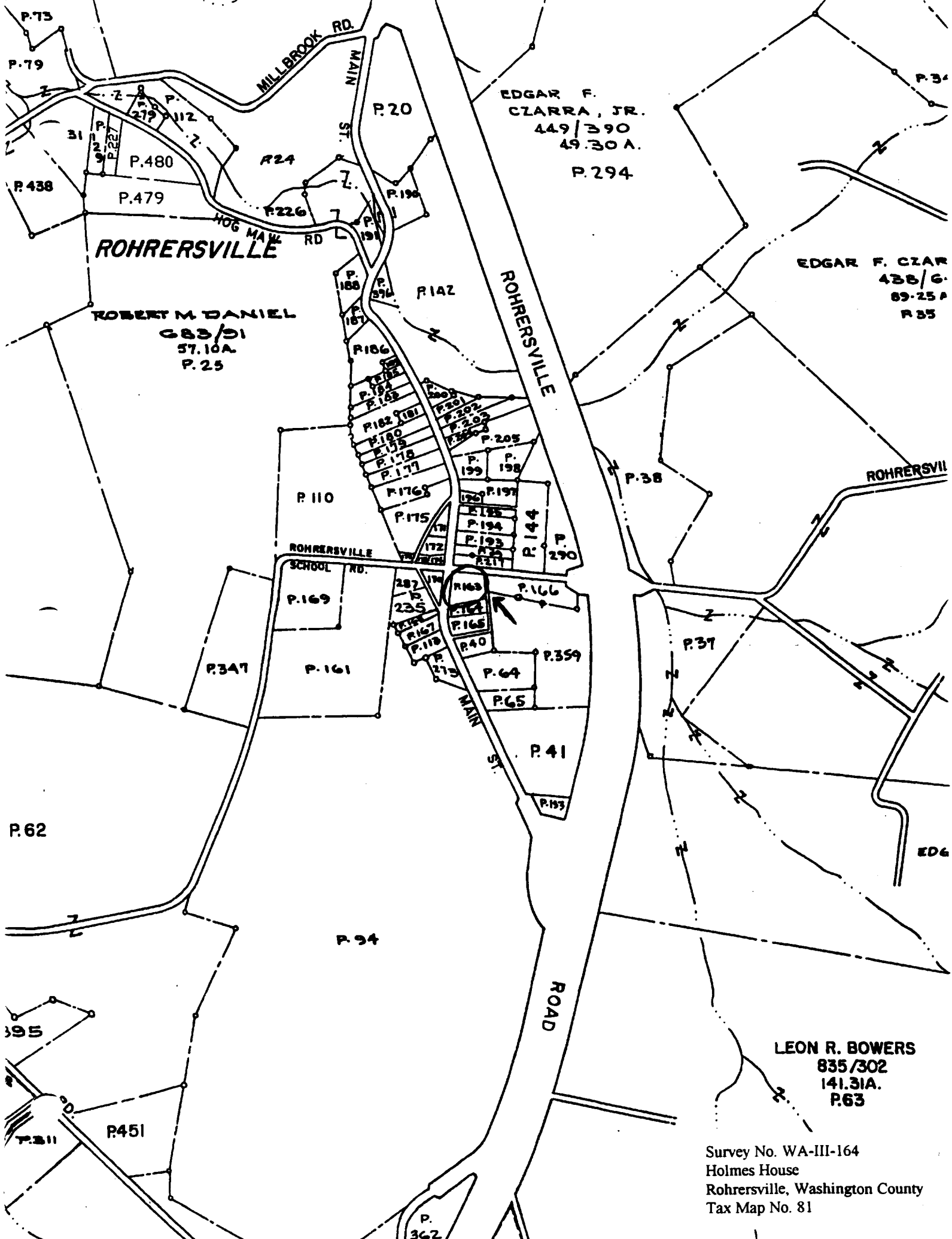
Glassie, Henry. Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States. Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968.

Lake, Griffing and Stevenson. An Illustrated Atlas of Washington County, Maryland. Philadelphia, 1877.

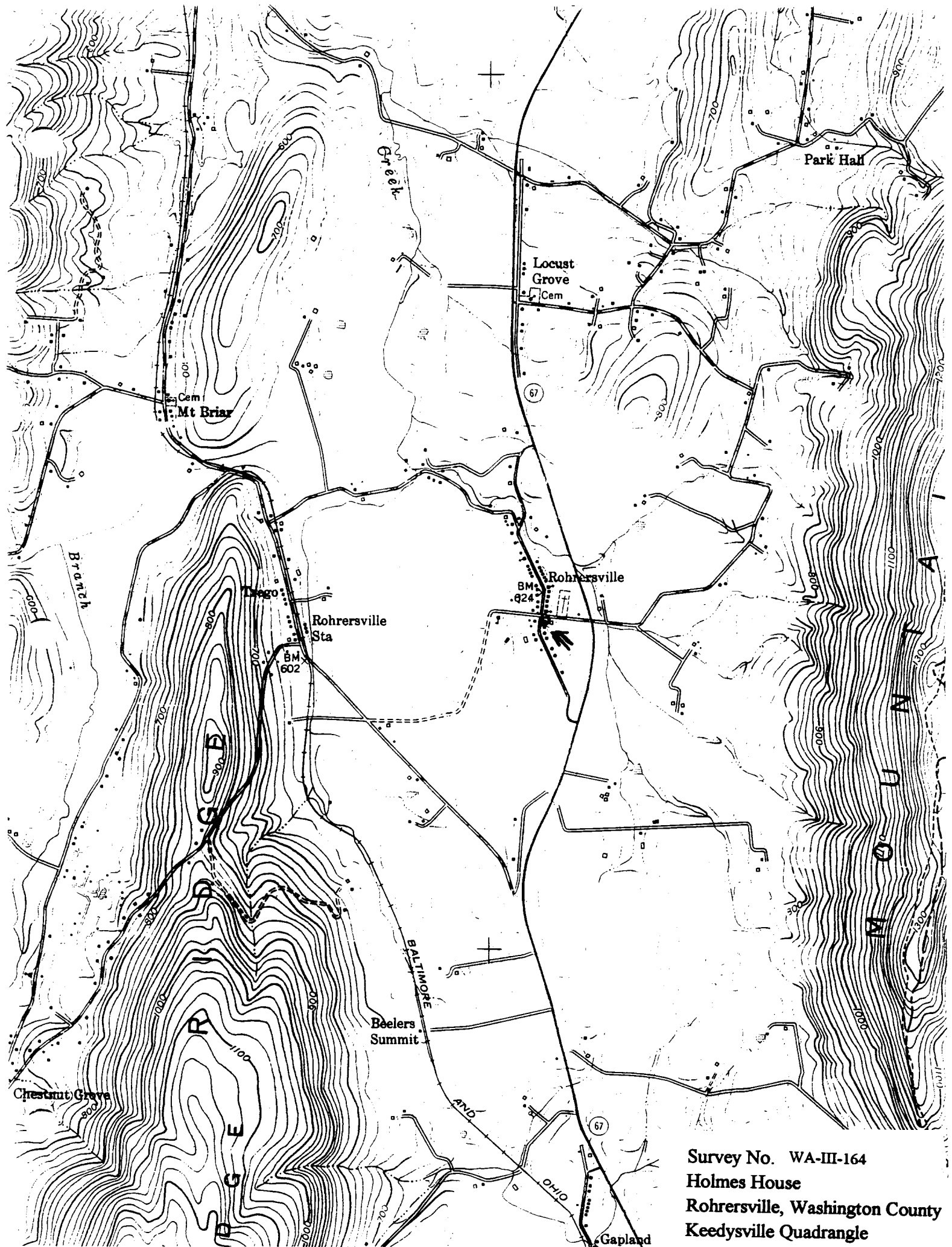
Reed, Paula. "Keedysville Survey Report." Preservation Associates, Inc., Hagerstown, MD, December 1993.

Washington County Land Records

Williams, Thomas, J. C. A History of Washington County, Maryland. John M. Runk & L. R. Titsworth, 1906.



Survey No. WA-III-164
Holmes House
Rohrerstown, Washington County
Tax Map No. 81



Survey No. WA-III-164
Holmes House
Rohrersville, Washington County
Keedysville Quadrangle



WA-TU-164

4265 MAIN ST, Bohersville ~~Boherville~~

Washington Co MD

SC Salvatore

5/97

Neg: MD SAPO

Holmes House, SE VIEW

#41 of 43 (cap)

#1 of 4 (ind)



WA-III-164

E/S main, N/S Rohr Schalke, Richersville

Washington County MD

SC Salvatore

5/97

Neg: MD SHPD

Holmes House, NE View

2 of four



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4265 main St, Rohrer'sville

Washington County MD

SC Salvatore

Nex: MD SHPD

Holmes House, E view

3 of 4



WA-III-164

4265 main St, Rohrer'sville

Washington County MD

Sc Salvatare

S797

Neg. MD SHED

Holmes House, SE view of barn

4 of 4